

UP TO DATE
AND NEWSY.

BEST SPORTING PAGE IN NEW YORK.

EDITED BY
ROBERT EDGREN.ERIN'S SONS TO
FETE SHERIDAN
AND FLANAGAN

America's Two Great Athletes, Holders of World's Records, Will Be Guests of Honor To-Night of the United Irish Societies.



MARTIN SHERIDAN and John Flanagan, two of America's greatest athletes, will be the guests of honor to-night at a great reception given them by the United Irish-American Societies of New York. Bronze statues of these two athletes will be presented as testimonials of the regard in which they are held by their friends, both Irish and American.

I think that I may say there is no one better qualified than myself to write about John Flanagan and Martin Sheridan. We have met in competition on many athletic fields. I have seen John Flanagan shatter records after record. I have seen Martin Sheridan win the greatest honors that can be won in amateur athletics, in the famed Olympic games at Athens. I have heard ninety thousand Greeks cheer for Martin Sheridan and clap their hands in applause of his prowess until the sound of the clapping rose to a roar like that of a passing express train.

I remember very well my first meeting with John Flanagan. I had beaten Jim McMillen's world record for throwing the sixteen pound hammer, and had come to live in New York with the prospect of winning a few championships. When I had been here a week or two I heard that John Flanagan, the great Irish weight thrower, had arrived from the "auld land," and was beginning to train in Jersey City. I went over to meet John.

A VERY pleasant fellow I found him still improving all the time. I sincerely hope that both John Flanagan and Martin Sheridan will be in New York next year and a half from now for the Olympic games that will be held in England. Both are peer to any athletes the world can produce. And both are men that any country could be proud of.

We trained for the games, and met for the first time in the Metropolitan championships. Flanagan won with 14 feet, 6 inches, while I had 13 feet, 11 inches.

I was second, with 14 feet.

After winning the event John came over to where I was standing, somewhat disheartened by my defeat, and said: "Don't feel bad, old man. You have a grand style with the hammer." Sure, there's a big chance we may meet me next time. It's a bit of hard luck ye had."

But I never did, although I tried again and again. John's ability to improve seemed endless. Foot by foot he raised the record—15, 15½, 15½, 16, 16½, and so on, until he placed the mark where it now stands, 17 feet 11 inches. It was not long before I realized that I was outclassed by this splendid Irishman, and then I took pleasure in watching his progress. I took more pleasure, perhaps, even than his club mates, for I knew what a magnificent effort it took to add each half-ton foot to the record throw.

John wasn't contented to be the only world's champion in one event. He broke and re broke the record with the fifty-six pound weight. It takes a giant in strength to hurl that massive missile. John tosses it about as easily as an ordinary man tosses a hair-stuffed cushion or a gymnasium ball.

Other great weight throwers have come and gone, but Flanagan is still king of the seven foot mark. The great John De Witt, of Princeton, and Al Shaw, of California, can bear his best marks, but never surpass him. Shaw has thrown 168 feet, but has never passed the 170 foot mark. That honor belongs to Flanagan alone.

MARTIN SHERIDAN is another world's champion, and, like Flanagan, is one of "Nature's noblemen." He is a garrulous rascal on the athletic field, always ready to sympathize with and encourage those who stand up to him. And he is a生力军 to down them. In defeat, however, first to congratulate those who beat him. In the boxing ring he stands without a rival the world over.

The Greek Sheridan became a national hero. Not even King George himself received such ovations on his public appearances as this American hero. I have seen the Greeks swarm over the streets for the honor of marching beside the carriages in which the victorious Sheridan returned from the Stadium. And I have heard the cry "Sheridan-Sheridan" echo through the streets of Athens in such a far-reaching roar as much have greeted the ancient Greek victors returning from that famous Delian battle-field.

Martin Sheridan might well have posed for the statues of old Greek heroes which adorn the national museums. He is six feet tall and proportioned like a Greek god. He is strong as an interwoven mass of steel wires, quick as a panther. And, best of all, he is filled with the kind of courage that never flags in the heat of competition. He is a marvelous athlete in practice, and still better in the excitement of public contest. He is a sure man, who never "falls down" when it's up to him to win.

I have no idea what Martin Sheridan's limits are in the weight-throwing line. He holds world's records with the discus, is a great shot putter, 65-pound weight thrower, pole vaulter, jumper, runner and hammer thrower. And he

(Special to The Evening World.) LOS ANGELES, Cal., Dec. 27.—J. C. Skinner, matchmaker of the Rhyolite Athletes Association, announced last night that Jim Jeffries had consented to accept the \$30,000 offer for a finish fight between him and Bill Squires, Australian heavyweight, to be held at Sydney some time next April.

Jeffries, when questioned regarding the situation, said:

"I have accepted the offer and agreed with Mr. Skinner in regard to a few minor details. I have waited for three months in which to train. At the present time I weigh over 230 pounds, and should Squires agree to meet me, I will enter the ring at 230 pounds.

THESE PREMIER ATHLETES WILL BE HONORED BY ERIN'S SONS

JOHN FLANAGAN
SMASHING A
66 LB. WEIGHT
RECORD.MARTIN SHERIDAN
WINNING THE
DISCUS THROW
AT ATHENS.JEFF ACCEPTS \$30,000
PURSE TO FIGHT SQUIRES

"I believe that I can beat any man in the world, but they all look good to me before the time of battle, and I am not one of them," said Jim Jeffries, the Australian, every pound of superfluous flesh will have been removed, and I don't see why I should lose."

Squires said he would accept my offer after requiring a guarantee from the John S. Cook banking firm of Sydney to pay him \$30,000 purse, as forfeit for a \$30,000 purse I offered Squires Sunday afternoon, and am waiting for him to do so.

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**SLIM CHANCE OF NELSON
FIGHTING IN ENGLAND**

Although Battling Nelson has declared that he might engage in a few battles while he is in England, it is doubtful that he will get the chance to show the English sporting men how he fights. There are two things which hold him back. In the first place, there, the English Sporting Club would not offer him any more than a \$2,500 purse at the most, and he will be paid off in French excess. An amateur fight, however, was only given a week's notice for the fight, but Battling Nelson, in London, now has to travel to France. Thompson has had three fights with knockouts so far this month.

Small Purse Offered. Fighters.

That the National Sporting Club, the premier fighting club of Europe, no longer gives away the big purses it did before it left so much money on the boxing circuit, which the club brought off during the Queen's Jubilee several years ago, was evident in the fact that when John O'Hearn, at Thompson's New Year's afternoon, for which he will receive \$1,000 and his expenses, had to make do with a \$1,000 purse, and that Dr. James and George Morris, the managers of the Heavy-weight championship of England for a purse of \$1,500, were given a week's notice for the fight, but Battling Nelson, in London, now has to travel to France. Thompson has had three fights with knockouts so far this month.

JACK WELCH A LUCKY REFEREE.

Jack Welch, the referee of San Francisco, is a lucky fellow. He has been selected to judge the coming lightweight championship fight between Jim Jeffries and Herman at Thompson's New Year's afternoon, for which he will receive \$1,000 and his expenses, and that Dr. James and George Morris, the managers of the Heavy-weight championship of England for a purse of \$1,500, were given a week's notice for the fight, but Battling Nelson, in London, now has to travel to France. Thompson has had three fights with knockouts so far this month.

Caponi and Mike Donovan Matched.

Tony Caponi, the Chicago middle-weight fighter who defeated Larry Temple, the colored pugilist, in a twelve-round bout on New Castle, Pa., a few months ago, although he has not been matched for a fight since, has been engaged to meet Mike Donovan on Jan. 6, to begin training for the bout at Brown's Gymnasium, with Jack Goodwin, the clever boxer of this city, who will be signed to fight Hugo Koenig.

Martyn Training for Russell.

Amby McGarry, the rugged lightweight who is matched to fight "Unk" Temple, the colored pugilist, for the title, the Quaker City pugilist, for six rounds, tomorrow, at the Auditorium, will be in training on Jan. 6, to begin training for the bout at Brown's Gymnasium, with Jack Goodwin, the clever boxer of this city, who will be signed to fight Hugo Koenig.

Haley Offered Fight with Abe Attell.

Ernest Haley, the English feather-weight fighter, can only afford Tom O'Toole, the feather-weight champion of Pennsylvania, in their six-round bout before the National A. Co. of Philadelphia, on Jan. 12. He will be given a chance to meet the latter in a twelve-round bout at the Pacific A. Co. of Los Angeles, Ca., for the feather-weight championship of the world. The bout will be held at the Los Angeles Civic, where he will give Haley a fight with Attell if he beats O'Toole.

Stinger Wants to Fight Attell.

"Kid" Stinger, the hard-hitting little Quaker City featherweight, who has won five battles in successive weeks, Victoria Falls, has issued a challenge to fight Abe Attell, provided the Madison Avenue, of the National A. Co., of New York, will give him a purse, and will meet him as one of the best fighters in the world.

Stinger is improving in his fighting, and will shortly be rated as one of the best fighters in the world.

JOHN POLLOCK.

**GEO. BOTHNER HAS
ANOTHER MATCH**

George Bothner has been matched to meet Ed. O'Connell, the lightweight champion of Connecticut, on New Year's afternoon at Worcester, Mass.

Bothner and O'Connell will wrestle the best two out of three falls, catch-as-catch-can style.

This match Bothner regards simply as part of his training for competing with Galloway. In good condition, he now expects to come out of his struggle with O'Connell in good shape.

JOHN POLLOCK.

LONG-ACRE STAG TO-NIGHT.

Six bouts have been arranged by Matchmaker Bill Jacobs for the stag at the Long Acre A. C. in its club room in West Twenty-ninth street to-night. All of the boxers who will appear will have to be in the best of shape, as Dr. Knipe, the examining physician of the club, will not allow any of the contestants to box who are not in good condition. There will be four three-round bouts and two six-round contests. The legitimate club members will be allowed to witness the bouts.

JOHN POLLOCK.

COLONIAL AND BROADWAY

THE STAR HOW HEARTS ARE BROKEN

AMERICAN MIDGETS PHANTOM DECTECTIVE

HENRI DE VRIES IN THE DOUBLE LIFE

SYSTEMS ON PAST FORM ARE
GREAT, BUT ON FUTURE?

BY FRANK W. THORP.

From now on to the end of the world, so long as there is speculation in the form of horse racing, stock gambling or card playing, there will be people who will spend hours in trying to dig out an infallible system which will surely win money. Systems are figures on past performances. System figures will go over years of past performances in racing, over stock quotations by the million and through thousands of card deals. They will find systems that are infallible and which, if strictly adhered to, would have made money. They for get, however, that what has happened in the past is no guarantee of what will happen in the future. A system may work out for years on past performances only to go to pieces on the rocks of the future.

System playing hinges on one important point. You must pick winners. And if you can pick winners it doesn't make any difference what old kind of a system you play—you can get the money. I don't like systems myself.

Systems may limit your losses, but they also limit your winnings. I am a believer in luck, and when luck comes to you push it along for all it is worth. Don't turn your face away from it and say: "No, thank you; small favors suit me best." When opportunity comes grab it by the hand, pull it inside your house and lock the door so you can hook up with it for a while. Don't look at opportunity doubtfully and say that you are not sure whether it is worth your while to take advantage of it. That's about the way system players think.

There was once a man (this is not a new story) who believed he had a sure system of beating the races. His way of thinking it was clear and con-

vincing up your sleeve. And when you're unlucky, all the systems in the world would ward off what is coming to you.

You will notice, however, that a banker is again showing confidence in his fight with him. The colored boy is once more neglecting his training. Joe said yesterday that he was in as good condition as he ever was in his life, and that he could go along without any more work for the rest of the week if necessary.

He also says that his weight was 123 pounds, but to those who saw him it looked as though he was much heavier than 123.

Joe can command the cash he wants to earn.

"Let me know how much ready cash we can command," said the banker.

The cashier went out to the vaults and summoned the cashier.

"We have a couple over two million in cash," said the cashier.

"An my dear, Mr. System Player," said the banker with an apologetic smile.

"I fear that we have not enough money to enable us to play your game."

This little story pretty nearly fits the system game.

AMUSEMENTS.

KEITH & PROCTOR'S

5TH AV.

GRACE VAN STIFDORF

FIREWORKS

ALL STARS

SMOK-BAL.

HARLEM OPERA HOUSE

GRACE VAN STIFDORF

BIG BANG

ALL STARS

SMOK-BAL.

MILITARY OCTET

GRACE VAN STIFDORF

ALL STARS

SMOK-BAL.

UNION SO.

GRACE VAN STIFDORF

ALL STARS

SMOK-BAL.

THEATRE

GRACE VAN STIFDORF

ALL STARS

SMOK-BAL.

AMUSEMENTS.

HIPPODROME

GRACE VAN STIFDORF

ALL STARS

SMOK-BAL.

NEPTUNE'S DAUGHTER

GRACE VAN STIFDORF

ALL STARS

SMOK-BAL.

PIONEER DAYS

GRACE VAN STIFDORF

ALL STARS

SMOK-BAL.

UNION SO.

GRACE VAN STIFDORF

ALL STARS

SMOK-BAL.